



APSINTHION

PROTOCOL



WRITTEN BY DR. FAUSTUS
ILLUSTRATED BY EROSARTS

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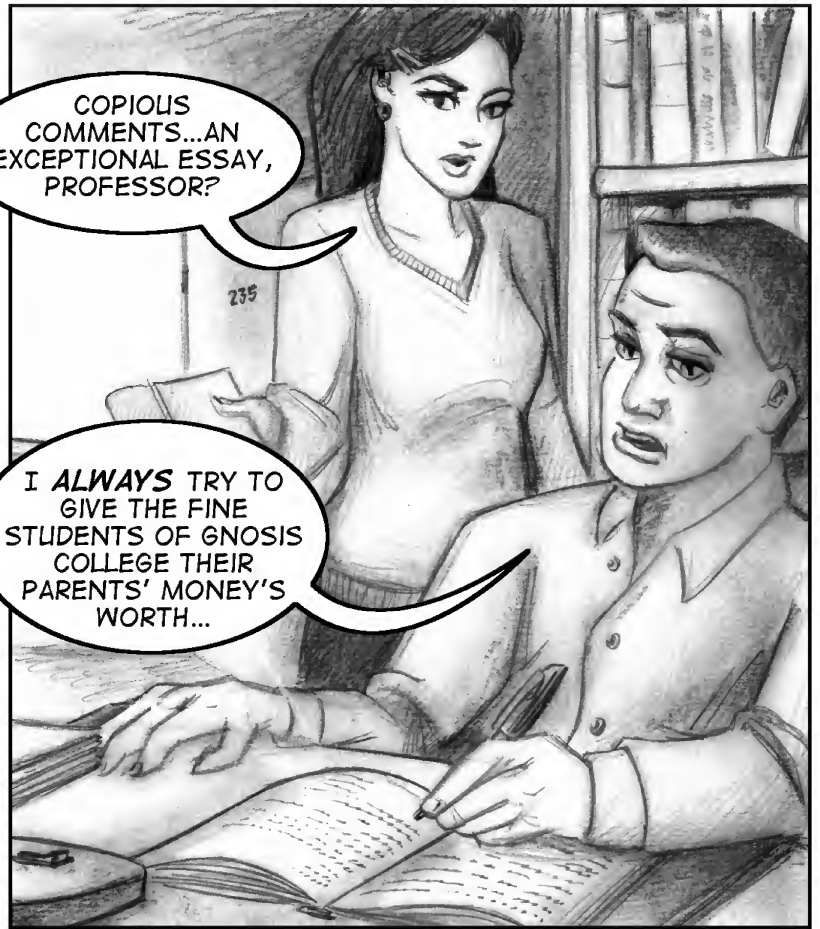


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PROFESSOR CORWIN? THE BOOKS YOU WANTED...



COPIOUS COMMENTS...AN EXCEPTIONAL ESSAY, PROFESSOR?

I **ALWAYS** TRY TO GIVE THE FINE STUDENTS OF GNOSIS COLLEGE THEIR PARENTS' MONEY'S WORTH...

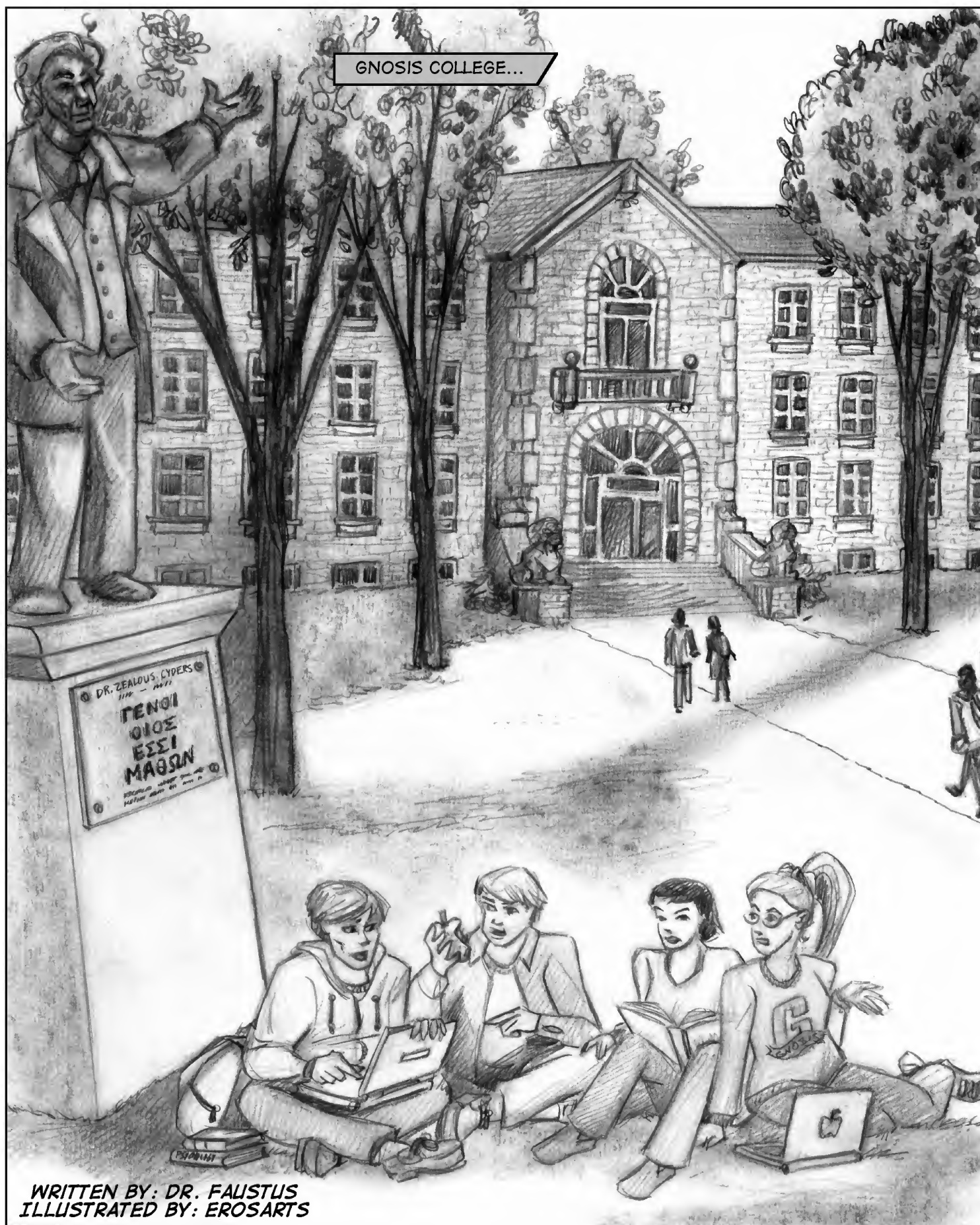


...AND FOR A FEW VERY DESERVING STUDENTS, THE COMMENTS ARE THE KEY THAT OPENS UP A DOOR.

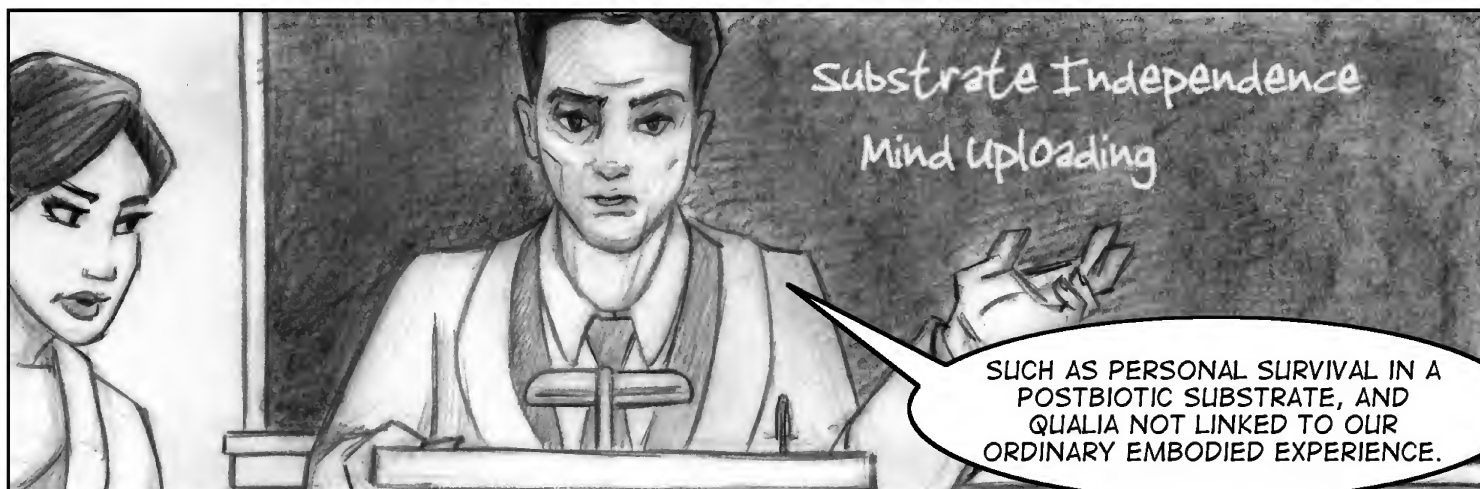
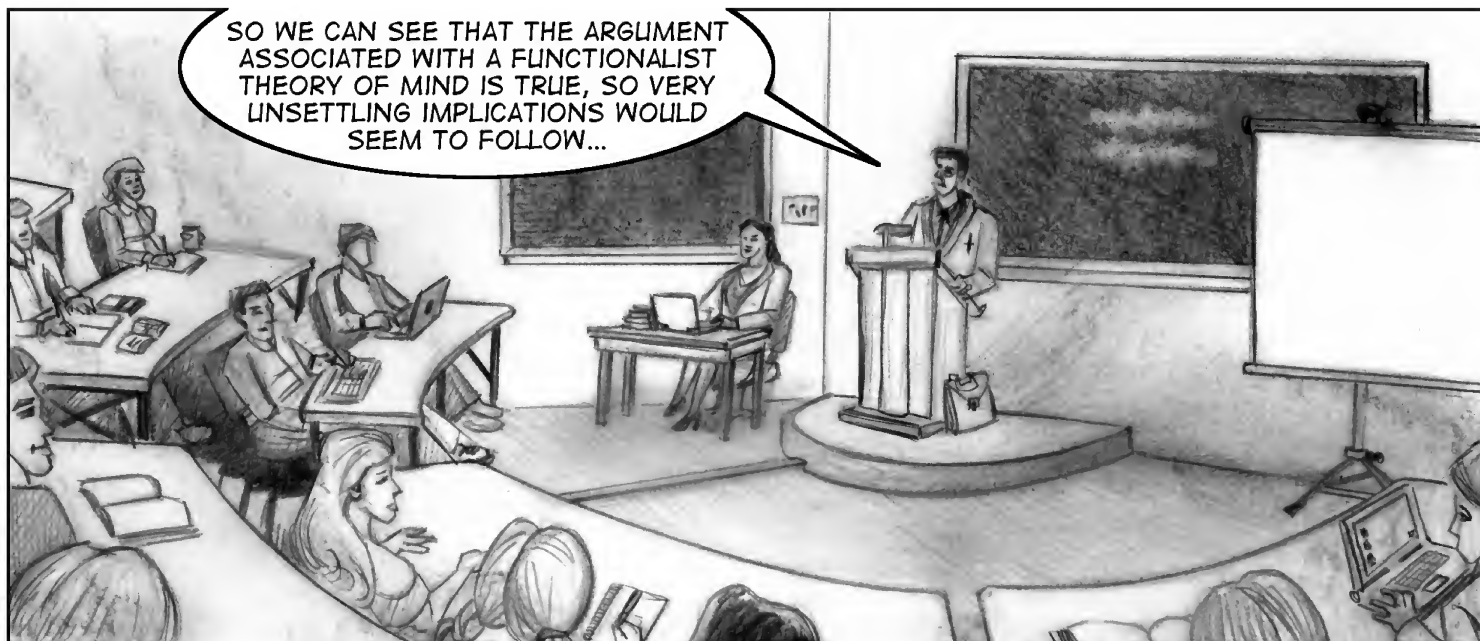


I SEE...

GNOSIS COLLEGE...



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...AH, I SEE I'VE RUN OVER AGAIN.
OKAY, THAT'S ALL FOR THIS WEEK,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. KEEP IN
MIND THAT YOUR SECOND PAPERS
ARE DUE NEXT WEDNESDAY.



SHUFFLE, SHUFFLE

PROFESSOR
CORWIN, I'M A BIT
CONCERNED ABOUT
MY MOST RECENT
PAPER.

MISS RECTOR, A
GRADE OF A- IS
AN EXCELLENT
ONE, WHEN IT
COMES FROM ME.



PERHAPS WE
SHOULD DISCUSS
THIS FURTHER.
MISS LI CAN SET
UP AN
APPOINTMENT
FOR YOU.



WOULD *TWO*
DO, NANETTA?

OH, I DON'T CARE
AT ALL ABOUT THE
GRADE. BUT YOUR
COMMENTS
SEEMED A BIT...
DISMISSIVE.

I SEE...



FOUR O' CLOCK, AND THE DISCUSSION REMAINS HEATED...

BUT SURELY THIS APPLICATION OF SEARLE'S CHINESE ROOM ARGUMENT PRECLUDES TRANSMISSION OF PERSONAL IDENTITY ACROSS SUBSTRATES!

235
Joseph
Corwin

PHILOSOPHICAL ARGUMENTS LIKE THAT, MISS RECTOR, HOWEVER INGENIOUS, DO NOT TRUMP EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS!

ONE *GEDANKENEXPERIMENT* MEETS ANOTHER, YOURS FAR MORE COUNTERINTUITIVE THAN MINE. WHY SHOULD I FOLLOW YOU?

YOU SUGGEST I HAD IN MIND A MERE THOUGHT EXPERIMENT?

WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE?

DID YOU KNOW I RUN A LABORATORY...

SURE. RIGHT HERE IN HUME HALL.

I HAVE IN MIND A RATHER DIFFERENT LABORATORY.

THE BUSINESS ACUMEN OF MY ANCESTORS HAS LEFT ME WITH SUFFICIENT PRIVATE MEANS TO ESTABLISH A *PERSONAL* LABORATORY OF MY OWN IN WHICH I CAN CONDUCT *BLUE SKY* RESEARCH.



BLUE SKY?

RESEARCH
CONSIDERED TOO...
SPECULATIVE FOR
NORMAL CORPORATE
OR GOVERNMENT
FUNDING.



I WOULD BE HAPPY TO SET
UP A **DEMONSTRATION**
FOR YOU AT MY OFFSITE.

IF YOU AGREE TO
KEEP WHAT YOU SEE
CONFIDENTIAL, THAT
IS. IT'S NOT READY
TO PUBLISH...

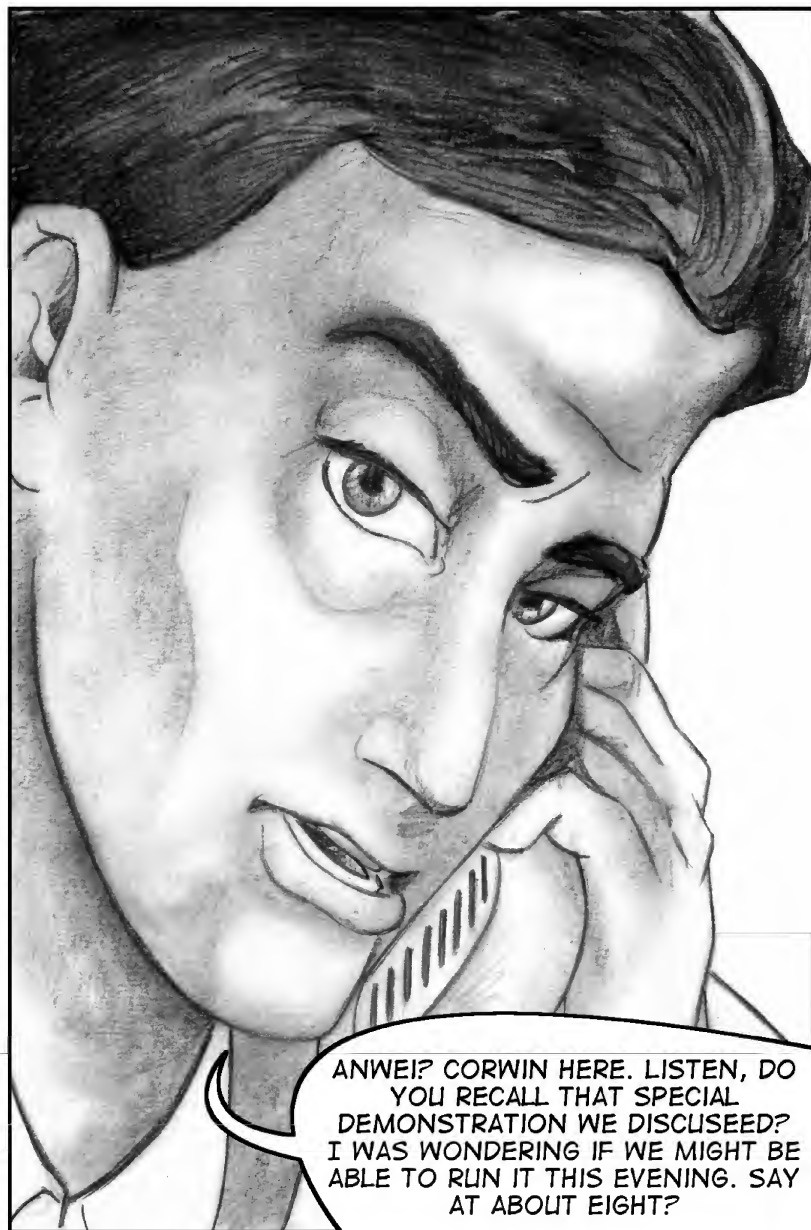
UH, GEE, I'D
DON'T REALLY
KNOW...



NATURALLY YOU'RE CONCERNED
ABOUT SOMETHING **LINTOWARD**, SO I
SHALL BE ASKING ANWEI TO JOIN US.
YOU KNOW AND TRUST HER, YES?



nod



ANWEI? CORWIN HERE. LISTEN, DO
YOU RECALL THAT SPECIAL
DEMONSTRATION WE DISCLOSED?
I WAS WONDERING IF WE MIGHT BE
ABLE TO RUN IT THIS EVENING. SAY
AT ABOUT EIGHT?

EIGHT O'CLOCK IT IS.



HERE?

YES. THE OLD
WEIDEGOLD
BREWERY.



NO BEER HAS BEEN BREWED
HERE FOR FIFTY YEARS. I
REALIZE IT MUST SEEM LIKE A
STRANGE PLACE FOR A LAB...



...BUT IT'S
PRIVATE, IT'S
CHEAP, AND
PROFESSOR
CORWIN WAS
ABLE TO MAKE
GOOD USE OF
THE EXISTING
TANKAGE.



KNOWLEDGE
AWAITS WITHIN.

TANKAGE?!





MOST CERTAINLY!

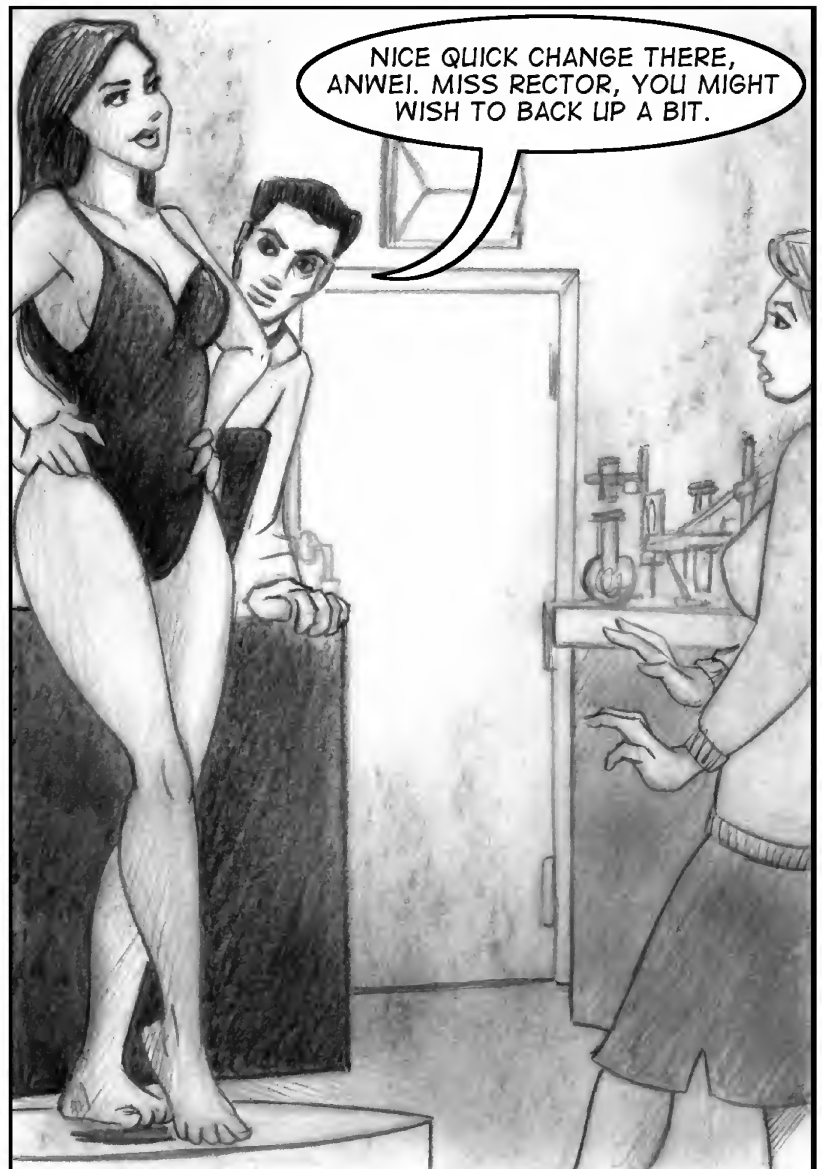
SO ALL THIS APPARATUS YOU HAVE HERE, ALL THIS EQUIPMENT, IS SOMETHING YOU CAN USE FOR A DEMONSTRATION THAT MY THESIS WAS INCORRECT?



I CAN'T FAULT YOUR SKEPTICISM. SOME THINGS MUST BE SEEN TO BE THOUGHT ANYTHING OTHER THAN MAD, AND MUST BE EXPERIENCED TO BE BELIEVED.

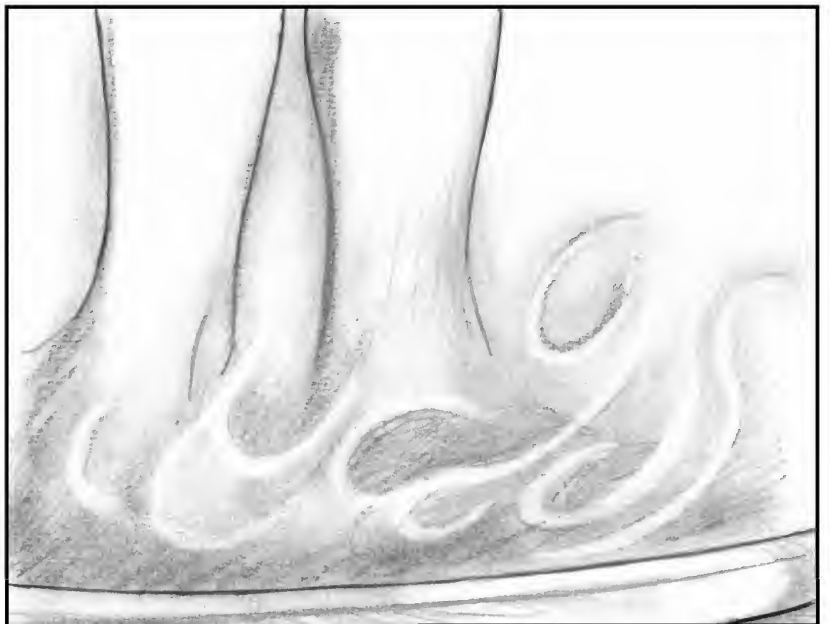


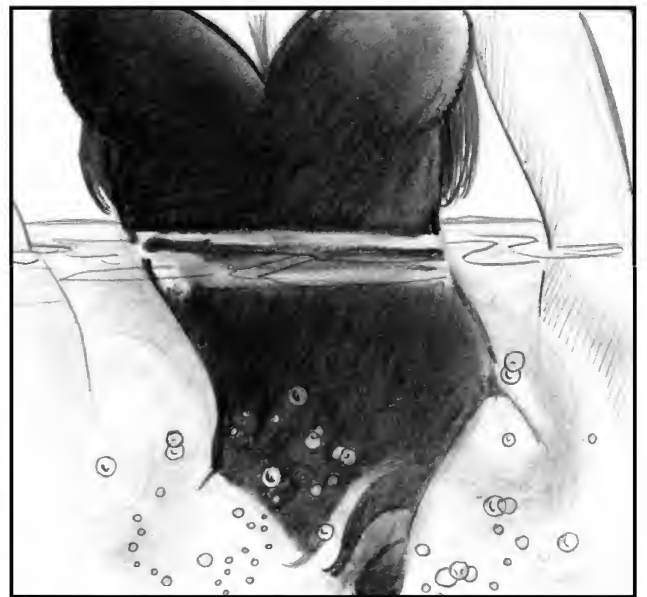
I AM READY.

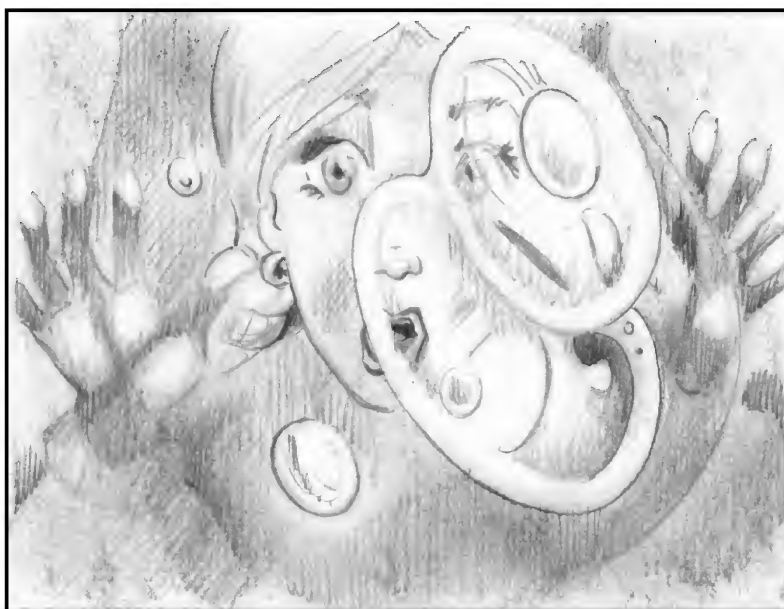


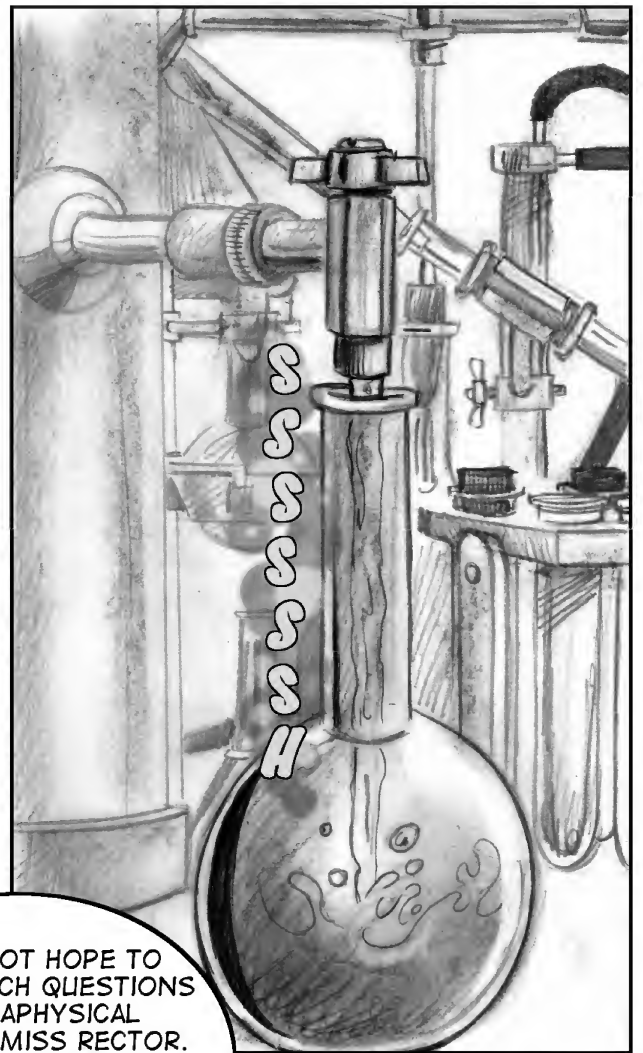
NICE QUICK CHANGE THERE, ANWEI. MISS RECTOR, YOU MIGHT WISH TO BACK UP A BIT.





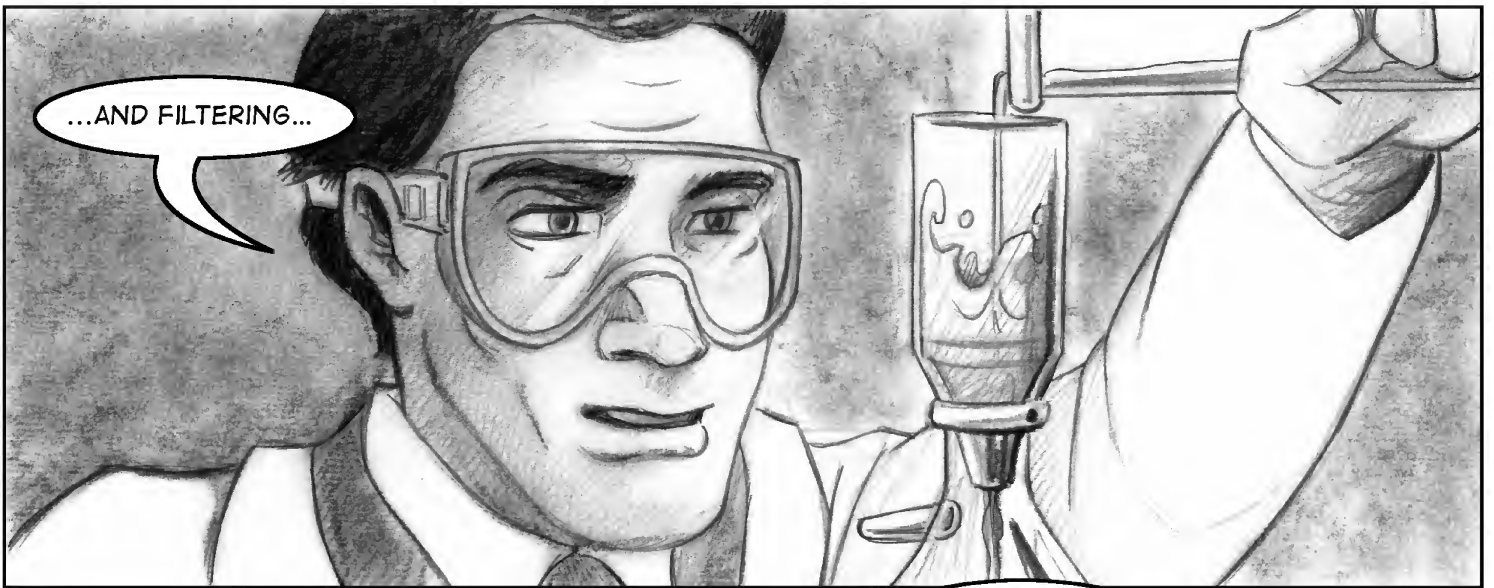






WE CANNOT HOPE TO ANSWER SUCH QUESTIONS BY METAPHYSICAL INQUIRIES, MISS RECTOR. INSTEAD, WE MUST APPROACH THE MATTER AS PRACTICAL **SCIENTISTS** AND BE BUSY COLLECTING...





YES, ANWEI. THE BEAUTIFUL YOUNG ANWEI. DISSOLVED, DISTILLED, REDUCED TO HER VERY ESSENCE. LIQUID GIRL! HERE YOU CAN HOLD HER...

YOU'RE EITHER A **MURDERER** WHO NEEDS TO BE LOCKED UP, OR A **PRANKSTER** WHO NEEDS TO BE FIRED, AND ONE WAY OR THE OTHER I'M...

...SHE IS STILL WARM.

I ASSURE YOU, DEAR YOUNG LADY, THAT I AM NEITHER. I SUPPOSE THAT IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT YOU BE **SHOWN** THIS BEFORE YOU'RE ASKED TO BELIEVE IT.

WATCH!

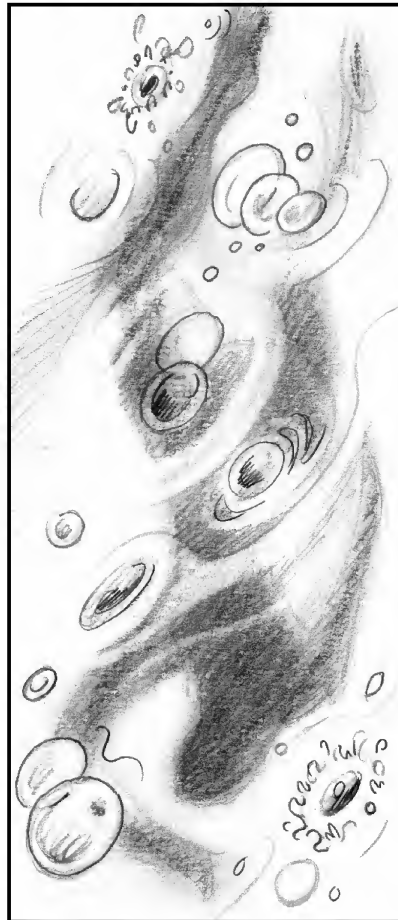
TOSS

SPLASH

GLUB


GLUB

GLUB






REBORN!
RISING LIKE VENUS
FROM THE SEA AT
PAPHOS!



ANWEI YOU'RE...
WHOLE AND SOLID.

AND I FEEL
FRESH AS A BABY
FROM THE BATH.
MAY I HAVE MY
ROBE PLEASE,
PROFESSOR?

MOST
CERTAINLY!



SO IT'S ALL REAL? I MEAN, ALL THAT
REALLY HAPPENED TO YOU?

THE PART
WHERE YOU
MELT FEELS
JUST AS
GOOD...AS IT
MUST LOOK
AND SOUND.

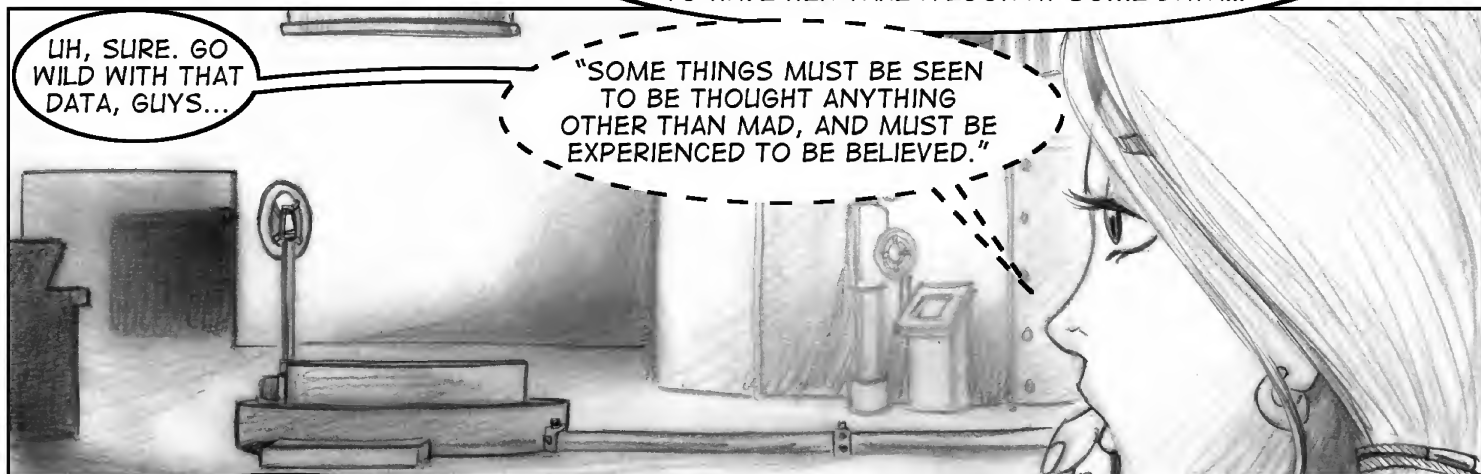
AND IN THE END, IT'S AS IF
YOU BECOME A BLISSFUL
OCEANIC FEELING. NOT *HAVE*
ONE, *BECOME* ONE...



WHAT DOES IT
MEAN TO *BECOME*
A FEELING?

SOME THINGS
ARE *VERY* HARD
TO PUT INTO
WORDS,
NANETTA.

NOT THAT ANWEI WON'T TRY WHEN SHE GETS
THE CHANCE, BUT RIGHT NOW I'D *REALLY* LIKE
TO HAVE HER TAKE A LOOK AT SOME DATA...



UH, SURE. GO
WILD WITH THAT
DATA, GUYS...

"SOME THINGS MUST BE SEEN
TO BE THOUGHT ANYTHING
OTHER THAN MAD, AND MUST BE
EXPERIENCED TO BE BELIEVED."



IS THERE A HEDONIC
SURGE ASSOCIATED WITH
THIS CLUSTER?

YES I CAN SEE
THAT. SAY,
THIS IS
INTERESTING.
NANETTA, YOU
MIGHT...

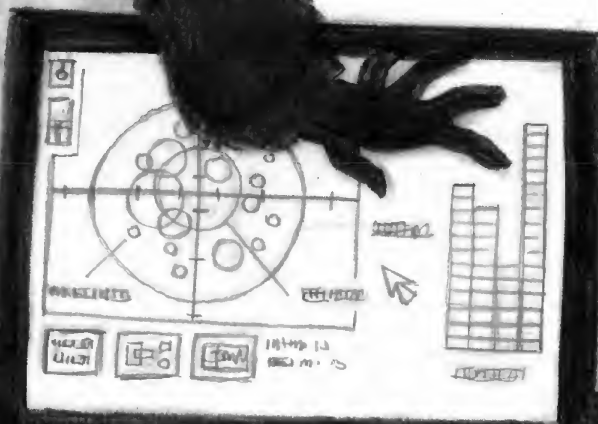
DATA LOOK A
BIT HETERO-
SCEDASTIC,
PERHAPS IF WE
APPLY ARCH
MODELING...

TAP
TAP
TAP

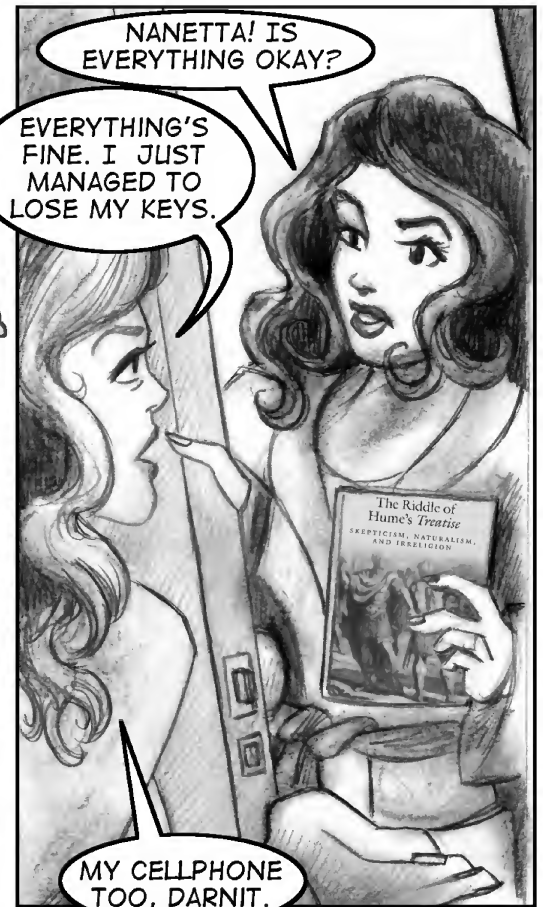
NANETTA?!

MAKE ME A
LIQUID GIRL!

WELL, NOW...



LATER THAT NIGHT AT MOIRA AND NANETTA'S DORM ROOM...



NANETTA! IS EVERYTHING OKAY?

EVERYTHING'S FINE. I JUST MANAGED TO LOSE MY KEYS.

MY CELLPHONE TOO, DARNIT.



HOW DID YOUR MEETING WITH PROFESSOR CORWIN GO? DID YOU GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED?

OH, JUST SWIMMINGLY. I'M PRETTY SLEEPY NOW, THOUGH.

WELL, THAT'S GOOD, I GUESS.



AND WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR CUTE LITTLE PIGTAILS?

AND WHEN EXACTLY DID YOU START SLEEPING IN THE NUDE?

OH, IT WAS JUST TIME TO LOSE THOSE. 'NITE MOIRA.

'NITE, NANETTA



Nanetta Rector

NANETTA RECTOR MIGHT LOOK LIKE SHE'S MOSTLY ABOUT FILLING OUT A SWEATER, BUT WHAT SHE REALLY ASPIRES TO FILL OUT IS THE LIBRARY. IN THREE YEARS AT GNOSIS COLLEGE SHE'S BEEN GRINDING AWAY TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT DANIEL DENNETT HAS CALLED THE LAST SURVIVING MYSTERY, THAT OF HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS, READING WHATEVER SHE COULD FIND -- DENNETT, CHALMERS, MCGINN, YOU NAME IT -- ON THE TOPIC. NANETTA'S ABOUT TO FIND OUT THAT WHILE BOOK LEARNING IS ALL WELL AND GOOD, PROFESSOR JOSEPH CORWIN'S MAD SCIENCE IS ABOUT TO PROVIDE HER WITH SOME PERSONAL EXPERIENCE FAR MORE REVEALING OF THE GREAT MYSTERY...